

**MEETING OF THE NUECES RIVER AND CORPUS CHRISTI BAY AND
BAFFIN BAY BASIN AND BAY AREA STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE
(NUECES BBASC)**

10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

**LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER, 1101 CAMPBELL AVENUE,
JOURDANTON, TX**

JUNE 20, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present: Con Mims, Chair (Proxy for Scotty Bledsoe); James Dodson, Vice Chair; Ray Allen; Paul Carangelo; Carola Serrato; Wes Tunnell; Buddy Stanley; Mike Mahoney; Joel Pigg; George Driskill; Don Roach (Proxy for Tom Ballou); Rocky Freund; Gus Gonzalez; Paul Carangelo (Proxy for Carola Serrato, Dick Bowers); Pat Suter; Timo Hixon; Teresa Carillo (Proxy for John Adams); Susan Lynch.

Call to order and Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was reached.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

Approve Minutes

Approval of meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Comments from SAC liaison

None

Comments from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

None

**Activities of the Public Information/Education Program
Subcommittee and the public information consultant**

There was no report at this time.

**Schedule and responsibilities for drafting the BBASC's
Recommendations Report**

Jace Tunnell discussed the status of the BBASC recommendations report. All sections of the report should be posted to the ftp site by Saturday, July 25, 2012. HDR will then compile the sections into a single document and email the document to all BBASC members by Wednesday, August 1st. Members will have until Wednesday, August 8th to review and submit comments. Revisions will be re-posted to the ftp site for review on Wednesday, August 15th. HDR will then prepare the final document to be presented Wednesday, August 22, 2012 and submitted to TCEQ on Friday, August 31, 2012.

Activities of the Modeling Subcommittee and technical presentations on modeling funded by Texas Water Development Board and/or City of Corpus Christi

Instream Workgroup: Sam Vaugh presented an update on the instream flow recommendations. He discussed the revisions made to the tables summarizing the instream flow recommendations to reflect the changes to the structure of the recommendations discussed at the last meeting. He reviewed section 4.1 of the report on how to use and implement the tables and sections 4.1.2 – 4.1.21 which include the flow recommendation tables organized from upstream to downstream in the basin. Members agreed to include pictures with each table as done in the BBEST report. He noted that the pulse exemption rule agreed to at the last meeting will be located in section 4.3.1,

Pulses and Overbank Flow.

Mr. Vaugh presented recommendations of the BBEST not yet discussed by the BBASC. He presented a background on pulse volume regression and bound *vs.* regression values and explained how they are calculated. When applied at the Sabinal Recharge Reservoir and Cotulla off-channel reservoir, the analyses indicated that the use of high flow pulse volume and duration bound values results in greater pulse duration and volume passage than typically occurred historically thus reducing firm yield of potential projects and increasing environmental protection. Use of the regressed high flow pulse volume and duration values are consistent with historical streamflow events increasing firm yield of potential projects and reducing environmental protection. As a result of these findings, the workgroup recommended no modifications to the BBASC instream recommendations, including upper bounds on some pulse volumes and durations, as recommended by the BBEST and agreed to by consensus during the last meeting. The workgroup also recommended the proposed work plan include further investigations of the ecological and water supply ramifications of this recommendation.

Chairman Mims opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Vaugh noted that the regression graphs were generated using HEFR. Members asked whether the bound values were associated with back-transform values because there may be an issue with using a linear x-y scale for the graphs since the regression equation is based on logarithmic transformation of the data. It was decided that this issue could be addressed in the further investigation recommended by the workgroup.

Members moved to adopt the Instream Environmental Flow Standard Recommendation of the work group, and the motion was approved by consensus.

Estuary and Delta Workgroup: In response to previous inquiries, Section 4.4 has been changed to *Nueces BBASC comments on the SB3 Process* to include any comments BBASC members wish to include in the report.

Cory Shockley, HDR, updated members on the status of the Bay and Estuary discussions. He explained that an attainment frequency is the percent of time in which the inflow into the Bay and Estuary equals or exceeds a specific volume as determined by the BBEST. He discussed how it is influenced by natural hydrology, system demand, and system operations. In general, greater attainment frequency results in lower system yield.

The workgroup focus was to find an acceptable balance between attainment frequency and yield by adjusting the attainment frequency to meet the volume targets recommended by the BBEST. The workgroup (Option 2) that was presented at the last meeting includes the full utilization of the system safe yield under the existing order.

The workgroup proposed that for the Nueces Bay and Delta inflow recommendations the BBASC adopt the BBEST volume targets and the BBASC attainment frequencies associated with full utilization of the system safe yield under the existing agreed order. In addition, the work group recommended a NEAC review and recommendation to TCEQ for new appropriations in excess of 1,000 acre-feet/year. Members discussed this proposal.

BBASC member Ray Allen cautioned members to avoid extremes that could result in making conditions worse during periods of drought and emphasized the need for managing flows throughout the year to meet subsistence flow requirements. Members expressed the importance of getting new ideas such as those from NEAC for the BBASC to pursue. It was added that there is a finite amount of water and the only recourse may be in adaptive management. Members discussed whether to refine and improve the attainment frequencies by pursuing water management strategies and adaptive management strategies.

Member Ray Allen suggested changing 1,000 acre-feet to 500 acre-feet as the limit above which NEAC will review a request for a new appropriation of water. Members agreed.

Members moved to adopt the Estuary and Delta Environmental Flow Standard Recommendation as amended, and the motion was approved unanimously

Instream Flow and Estuary Freshwater Inflow Recommendations

Chair Mims and BBASC member Teresa Carillo will work on section 4.2 of the report concerning the instream flow and estuary freshwater inflow recommendations. Once completed, it will be emailed to BBASC members for review.

Strategies to Meet Environmental Flow Recommendations (Section 5 of the Recommendation Report)

Chair Mims distributed copies of the current working draft of Section 5 - *Recommendations Regarding Potential Strategies to Meet Environmental Flow Standards*. He explained the difference between strategies and work plan

recommendations. Members then discussed each strategy listed in the recommendation and whether each should be included in the report.

Members reviewed the draft strategies identified in section 5, revising per discussion. Members approved by consensus the strategies as amended.

Chair Mims will revise the document as agreed and submit the corrected document as soon as possible.

Future activities and responsibilities of the BBASC

The next meeting of the BBASC is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, 2012 where members will discuss development of the work plan. The Workgroup is scheduled to meet on Monday, August 6, 2012.

Public comment

There were no comments at this time.

Adjourn